

REMARKS

The applicants thank the Examiner for his consideration of this pending application. By way of summary, Claims 8, 10-15, and 17-18 were pending in this application. By this amendment, applicants have canceled Claims 8, 10-13, 15, and 17-18 without prejudice or disclaimer, amended Claim 14, and added Claims 19-22. Thus, Claims 14 and 19-22 remain pending for consideration.

The Office Action rejected **Claim 14**, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,615,212 to Dutta et al. and U.S. Pat. No. 6,226,765 to Meltzer et al. Applicants submit that the cited prior art fails to teach or render obvious at least the limitations of “communicating with the hotel property management system to authorize and bill an account associated with the user in accordance with data in the XML command; receiving an authorization result from the hotel property management system; and transmitting an XML response from the network system to the billing and content server, the XML response comprising a confirmation identifier based on the authorization result.”

Meltzer teaches “an infrastructure for connecting businesses with customers, suppliers and trading partners” in which “companies exchange information and services using self-defining, machine-readable documents, such as XML (Extensible Markup Language) based documents, that can be easily understood amongst the partners.” *Col. 2 ll. 32-38.* Dutta teaches “a transcoding proxy server.” *Abstract.* However, neither reference teaches or suggests a hotel property management system, among other things. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 14 is patentable over the cited prior art.

Applicants further note that prior Office Actions indicated that neither Dutta nor Meltzer taught the limitation of “determining a type of operation requested by the external device.” Applicants continue to maintain that the references do not teach or suggest this limitation.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and thus request allowance of the pending claims. If there are any remaining issues that can be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below. To ensure that communications are directed properly, applicants note that the attorney of record has changed in this case.

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No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicant is not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicant has made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMEND
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